

Amendments To The Claims:

Please amend the claims as shown.

1 – 18 (canceled)

19. (new) A method for detecting contamination on a turbine component of a turbine, comprising:

pre-determining a reference oscillation characteristic value of the turbine component;  
determining a current oscillation characteristic value of the turbine component;  
comparing the current oscillation characteristic value with the pre-determined oscillation characteristic value; and  
assessing the contamination level of the turbine component based on the comparison.

20. (new) The method as claimed in claim 19, wherein the current oscillation characteristic value is determined when the turbine is operating.

21. (new) The method as claimed in claim 19, wherein the current oscillation characteristic value is determined while the turbine is not operating.

22. (new) The method as claimed in claim 19, wherein the turbine component is a turbine blade.

23. (new) The method as claimed in claim 19, wherein a common current oscillation characteristic value is determined for a plurality of turbine components that operate comparably.

24. (new) The method as claimed in claim 23, wherein the plurality of turbine components operated in a comparable manner is a row of turbine blades.

25. (new) The method as claimed in claim 23, wherein the plurality of turbine components direct a hot gas..

26. (new) The method as claimed in claim 19, wherein the current oscillation characteristic value is a behavior of the turbine component that is selected from the group consisting of: inherent frequency, oscillation frequency, oscillation amplitude, attenuation characteristic value and oscillation decay.

27. (new) A device for determining a degree of contamination on a turbine component of a turbine, comprising:

a sensor unit that determines a current oscillation characteristic value of the turbine component; and

a processor unit that compares the current oscillation characteristic value of a turbine component with a pre-determined reference oscillation characteristic value of a turbine component and determines the degree of contamination of the turbine component based on the comparison.

28. (new) The device as claimed in claim 27, wherein the current oscillation characteristic value is determined while the turbine is operating.

29. (new) The device as claimed in claim 27, wherein the oscillation characteristic value is determined while the turbine is stationary.

30. (new) The device as claimed in claim 27, wherein the turbine component is a turbine blade.

31. (new) The device as claimed in one of the claim 27, wherein a common current oscillation characteristic value is determined by the sensor unit for a plurality of turbine components that operate comparably.

32. (new) The device as claimed in claim 31, wherein the plurality of turbine components that operate comparably is a row of turbine blades.

33. (new) The device as claimed in claim 32, wherein the plurality of turbine components direct a hot gas.

34. (new) The device as claimed in claim 27, wherein the current oscillation characteristic value is a behavior of the turbine component that is selected from the group consisting of: inherent frequency, oscillation frequency, oscillation amplitude, attenuation characteristic value and oscillation decay.

35. (new) A method for detecting contamination on a turbine component of a turbine, comprising:

determining a current oscillation characteristic value of a turbine component.